

COMMEMORATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF TEXAS STATEHOOD

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 223, submitted earlier by Senators HUTCHISON and GRAMM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 223) to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Texas statehood.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution commemorating a very special event in the history of my State. This resolution is almost identical to one passed by the Texas State Legislature on March 7, 1995.

Just last month, on December 29, 1995, Texans celebrated the sesquicentennial of their statehood. Unlike all other states ever admitted, we gave up the sovereignty of an independent republic to join the Union.

On March 1, 1845, Congress passed a resolution inviting the Republic of Texas to join the Union, and a special convention of Texans met to consider it, under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson Rusk. The convention accepted the offer on July 4, and its decision was ratified by the people in October. We submitted a constitution, which Congress accepted on December 29.

Rusk went on to become the first United States Senator from Texas, and I, the great granddaughter of his law partner, now hold his seat. Taylor and Rush had signed the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico in 1836.

Texans mark the 29th, quietly, as the commencement of our statehood, although we didn't lower the Lone Star and post the Stars and Stripes until February 19, 1846. We must have been happy with statehood in 1955, because we expressly renounced the right to fly the flag of our old Republic at the same level as that of our Union. Our legislature mandated that it fly in a subordinate position, in a manner followed by all other states.

Although independence remains the signal day in Texas history, Texans look upon their statehood with pride, as a means of "conferring blessings upon the people of all the States." When Old Glory was raised for the first time in Austin, Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas, stated with eloquence:

The lone star of Texas, which ten years since arose amid cloud, over fields of carnage, and obscurely shone for a while, and following an inscrutable destiny has passed on and become fixed forever in that glorious constellation which all . . . lovers of freedom in the world must . . . adore—the American

Union. Blending its rays with its sister stars, long may it continue to shine, and may a gracious heaven smile upon this consummation with the wishes of the two republics, now joined together in one.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered and agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 223) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 223

Whereas 1995 marks 150 years since the United States of America admitted Texas as the 28th State in the Union;

Whereas the sesquicentennial of Texas statehood is a truly momentous occasion that allows all Texans to reflect on their State's proud heritage and bright future;

Whereas acting on the advice of President John Tyler, the United States Congress adopted a joint resolution on February 28, 1845, inviting the Republic of Texas to enter the Union as a State with full retention of its public lands; today, a century and a half later, Texas enjoys the distinction of being the only State admitted with such extensive rights;

Whereas the citizens of the Republic of Texas were deeply committed to the goals and ideals embodied in the United States Constitution, and, on June 16, 1845, the Congress of the Republic of Texas was convened by President Anson Jones to consider the proposal of statehood;

Whereas Texas took advantage of the offer, choosing to unite with a large and prosperous Nation that could more effectively defend the borders of Texas and expand its flourishing trade with European countries; by October 1845, the Congress of the Republic of Texas had approved a State constitution, charting a bold new destiny for the Lone Star State;

Whereas the proposed State constitution was sent to Washington, D.C., and on December 29, 1845, the United States of America formally welcomed Texas as a new State; the transfer of governmental authority, however, was not complete until February 19, 1846, when Anson Jones lowered the flag that had flown above the Capitol for nearly 10 years and stepped down from his position as president of the Republic of Texas; and

Whereas with the poignant retirement of the flag of the Republic, Texas emerged as a blazing Lone Star in America's firmament, taking its place as the 28th State admitted into the Union: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorate the sesquicentennial of Texas statehood; and

(2) encourage all Texans to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities on this historic occasion.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Texas Congressional Delegation, to the Governor of Texas, to the National Archives, and to the Texas Archives.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate immediately proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 330, and all military nominations reported out of the Armed Services Committee today.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Derrick L. Forrister, of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

The above nomination was approved subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Eugene E. Habiger, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1370:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Stephen B. Croker, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1370:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Arlen D. Jameson, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Michael D. McGinty, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following named officers for appointment in the Regular Air Force of the United States to the positions and grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8037:

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Bryan G. Hawley, 000-00-0000.

THE DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Andrew M. Egeland, Jr., 000-00-0000.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Phillip J. Ford, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

The following named officer for reappointment to the grade of lieutenant general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Kenneth A. Minihan, 000-00-0000, United States Air Force.

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of general while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under Title 10, United States Code, Section 601(a):

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Henry H. Shelton, 000-00-0000, United States Army.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Army while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601(a):

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. John M. Keane, 000-00-0000, United States Army.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Army while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601(a):

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Patrick M. Hughes, 000-00-0000, United States Army.

NAVY

The following named officer to be placed on the retired list of the United States Navy in the grade indicated under section 1370 of title 10, U.S.C.

*To be vice admiral*

Vice Adm. David B. Robinson, 000-00-0000.

The following named officer to be placed on the retired list of the United States Navy in the grade indicated under section 1370 of title 10, U.S.C.

*To be vice admiral*

Vice Adm. John B. LaPlante, 000-00-0000.

The following named officer to be placed on the retired list of the United States Navy in the grade indicated under section 1370 of title 10, U.S.C.

*To be Vice admiral*

Vice Adm. John M. McConnell, 000-00-0000.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 1028

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I present a unanimous-consent agreement which we have been working on all day. It is my understanding that there is still one objection to this agreement, and the majority leader is hoping this will be solved by next Tuesday when we are back in session.

I will read this agreement. It has, as I said, been worked on all day. I am very appreciative of the majority leader's efforts to bring this to an agreement. I ask unanimous consent that prior to Friday, May 3, the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, turn to the consideration of calendar No. 205, S. 1028, the

Health Insurance Reform Act of 1995; it would further be a unanimous consent that it not be in order to offer any amendment relative to health insurance to any legislation not including matters relating to health care prior to the execution of this agreement.

I am very appreciative of efforts that have gone into this today. It would certainly be my hope, given the consideration of everyone, that we can agree to this next Tuesday.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AND TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1996

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in recess until the hour of 10 a.m. on Monday, February 5, for a pro forma session only, and that the Senate immediately stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Tuesday, February 6, 1996; that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE VOTE

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. I ask unanimous consent that the pending cloture vote be postponed to occur on Tuesday, February 6, with the time to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the Democratic leader, and that first-degree and second-degree amendments be allowed to be filed until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, notwithstanding rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. It is the hope of this Senator, and I know others, that negotiations will continue with respect to a compromise amendment to the farm bill.

However, if no agreement can be reached, then the cloture vote on the Craig-Leahy substitute would occur on Tuesday. In the event an agreement can be reached, votes can be expected with respect to the farm bill on Tuesday.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order following the remarks of Senator DASCHLE, the Democratic leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACCOLADES TO CHAIR OF THE  
EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me just say how gratified we are that the

distinguished Chair of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has made such a remarkable effort to resolve the outstanding reservations that some may have with regard to the bill that she and Senator KENNEDY have worked on now for some time. She has been persistent, and I believe that ultimately she will be successful. I am very hopeful that we can continue to work to pass this important health reform legislation in a timely way. I believe she has demonstrated remarkable patience in her effort.

I feel confident that at some point in the future when we are able to bring this piece of legislation to the floor, it will not take long. I think there is broad recognition of the need to do much of what she has proposed in the legislation. I think it would be significant movement forward, and I think it could be one of the most consequential of our accomplishments in the 104th Congress. I commend her for her effort and look forward to working with her.

THE FARM BILL

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I just briefly want to make a couple of final remarks with regard to the debate on the farm legislation. I do not want to belabor what has already been said. I know that there are many who want to retire.

Let me say three things. First, I do not think there is a person in the Senate Chamber who does not want to get farm legislation passed at the earliest possible date. Frankly, many of us hoped we would not have had to see the delays that we have already experienced, for a lot of different reasons. There have been scheduling delays. I do not believe we have put the efforts in at the committee level that we should have.

Others have noted this bill has never been reported out of committee. For a piece of legislation of this magnitude not to be reported out of committee, not to come to the floor in the entire first session of the 104th Congress, is some indication, in my view, of the priority the majority has placed on farm legislation. Certainly we could have found time somewhere during the summer months or at some time during the fall or perhaps during the winter during many of these long breaks we have taken to take up this legislation, to recognize how pressing a problem it is, to deal with it, as complex as it is, in a meaningful way—over a long period of time, if necessary, to accommodate the many different decisions that any farm legislation reflects.

That is the first point, Mr. President. We really have to recognize that there have been delays, unnecessary ones, in our view, that have brought us to this point.

This legislation was never subject to a vote on the Senate floor. It was buried in a budget resolution that the President, for a lot of reasons, was required to veto. So it is not accurate to